

***Elaphria nucicolora* (Guenée), a Recent Immigrant to Hawaii**
(Lepidoptera: Agrotidae: Acronictinae)

By O. H. SWEZEY

(Presented at the meeting of July 8, 1946)

This new immigrant moth first appeared in a light trap at Hickam Field, June 5, 1945. It was a very much abraded specimen, but there were enough features of structure to distinguish it as some hitherto unknown moth. Again it was taken in light trap at Wheeler Field, December 18, 24, 26, 1945 and January 18, 1946. On the last date, it was taken also in light trap at Kahuku. Then it was taken in light trap at Waipio, January 25, February 12 and March 5, 1946; at Wahiawa, March 15, April 14, 17, 18 and May 13, 1946; and at Kalihi, June 12, 1946. Among the later captures were some that were in perfect enough condition for recognition; accordingly eight of the best specimens were sent to the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for determination. It was determined by Mr. Carl Heinrich as *Elaphria nucicolora* (Guenée), a species occurring in Florida, Texas, Bahamas, Jamaica and on south into South America as far as Trujillo, Peru and Bahia, Brazil.

This moth was described by Guenée in the genus *Monodes*, of which genus it was the type species. It remained in this genus for a considerable period. In 1909, Hampson listed it with 87 other species of *Monodes* in Catalogue of Lepidoptera, Phalaenae of the British Museum. It is also listed in the same genus in the Barnes and McDunnough Check List of North American Lepidoptera, 1917.

In a paper on "Sugarcane Pests in Florida" by Ingram, Jaynes and Lobdell, presented at the meeting of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists in Louisiana, October, 1938, *Elaphria nucicolora* is used as the name of this moth which is included with several other moths which "have assumed cutworm habits in sugar cane in Florida." This is the only reference which I have found in literature using the genus *Elaphria* in the place of *Monodes*, but I presume that somewhere there is recorded the reason for the change.

Another species (*Monodes agrotina* Guenée) is mentioned by Holloway as having been recorded by Moore of British Guiana as the "dead cane moth," the caterpillar of which feeds on "dead

and decaying cane stumps and even on dry trash." It is parasitized by a tachinid fly. (Facts about Sugar, 31: 183, 1936.)

It is possible that *Elaphria nucicolora* may be found to be only a scavenger, but at the moment none of its caterpillars has been found, so nothing is yet known of its habits here. It is to be hoped that it will not be found to have cutworm habits in our cane fields.

REFERENCES

1. *Monodes nucicolora*, Guenée, Noctuidae, 1: 241, pl. 4, fig. 9, 1852.
2. *Monodes nucicolora*, Smith, Catalogue of Noctuidae of North America, p. 151, 1893.
3. *Monodes nucicolora*, Hampson, Catalogue of the Phalaenae of British Museum, 8: 466, fig. 136, 1909.
4. *Monodes nucicolora*, Barnes and McDonnough, Check List Lepidoptera Boreal America, p. 68, 1917.
5. *Monodes* synonymized with *Elaphria*, Barnes and Benjamin, Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc., 24: 181, 1929.
6. *Elaphria nucicolora* (Guenée), Ingram, Jaynes, Lobdell, Proc. Int. Soc. Sugar Cane Technologists, 6: 97, 1939.
7. *Elaphria nucicolora*, Review of Applied Entomology, A, 27: 657, 1939.
8. *Monodes agrotina* Guenée, Holloway, Facts about Sugar, 31: 183, 1936.